



# RADIO AMATEUR NEWS & VIEWS

The Official Journal of the Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont

July • 2024

An ARRL Special Service Club

Vol. 34 No. 7

## The July 9th RANV Meeting

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

### CHECK OUT YOUR EQUIPMENT

For our July meeting, Mike [N1FBZ](#) will be on hand with his service monitor to check out equipment. He will be able to measure power output, deviation, receiver performance, power draw and other parameters. He will also be able to perform limited troubleshooting for items which are not working properly. There will be no opportunity for making repairs however. Simply bring your equipment and don't forget the power cord. If there is time and the weather cooperates, we may be able to measure mobile radio performance in the vehicles. This is a GREAT opportunity to learn the basics of transceiver testing and troubleshooting.

Be sure to join us at this month's RANV meeting, Tuesday, July 9th at 7PM at the Holy

Family Parish Hall, 30 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction.

## CONTACTS

Stewart [KC1IFK](#), President  
[stwbll2@gmail.com](mailto:stwbll2@gmail.com)

George [KC1JGM](#), VP/Treasurer  
[gmayvt1@gmail.com](mailto:gmayvt1@gmail.com)

Bob [K1BIF](#), Secretary  
[bhennebe@gmail.com](mailto:bhennebe@gmail.com)

George [KC1JGM](#), Editor  
[gmayvt1@gmail.com](mailto:gmayvt1@gmail.com)

*Newsletter submissions to*  
[gmayvt1@gmail.com](mailto:gmayvt1@gmail.com)

US Mail: PO Box 9392  
South Burlington, VT 05407

Web: [www.RANV.org](http://www.RANV.org)

Reflector: [RANV@groups.io](mailto:RANV@groups.io)

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday • 7:00 PM  
Holy Family Parrish Hall  
30 Lincoln Street  
Essex Junction, Vt

Repeater: 145.150, PL 100; WB1GQR

New Hams, Mentoring:  
[RANVMentor@gmail.com](mailto:RANVMentor@gmail.com)

## FIELD DAY 2024 ROCKS!

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

The lead up to Field Day 2024 was a bit scary. After 40 years at the same site up in Williston, we found ourselves in a new home in Essex. Despite all the planning, there was some trepidation that some unknown detail would pop up and bite us in the butt. I am happy to report that we were not bit! In fact, the layout and planning were spot on with none of the inter-station interference we have suffered in the past. All equipment, computers and antennas worked as advertised. Mostly. There was more emphasis placed on new operator recruitment this year. While this was mildly successful, we barely replaced operators who didn't return from last year. We ended up with 20 participants, which is essentially the same as previous years.

While 20 meters was open for 24 hours, and 15 meters was open for long periods of time, this didn't necessarily result in more QSO's for us. Rates were not quite as good as last years' blowout. The big runs we saw at the beginning of last year's event were not there. I suspect that with 15, 20 and 40 meters all in excellent shape for most of the event, there were fewer stations answering our CQ's. While we were running behind during the day, the rates during the graveyard shift (2-6AM) were excellent. But then the rates during the last few hours were lackluster on both modes, no matter what band was tried, resulting in lower numbers of QSO's.

While the main stations were barely holding their own, the GOTA station was primed and ready to do damage. The beginners banged out 1114 QSO's on phone and digital, a 28% improvement over last year. One hour hit a lofty 96 QSO's! With the bonus points available, the GOTA station outscored the phone and CW stations.

We ended up with 4976 QSO's – just a tad shy of a full 5k. The point total broke the big 20,000 point level based on contacts and bonuses.

We had no food at Field Day except for the lone coffee pot and a few donuts. With 12 restaurants along Pearl Street, all within easy walking distance,

everyone simply dined out. The upside was that there was no food garbage to clean up!

In the setup and takedown department, things were a lot better. Despite rainy conditions, we got the antennas and stations up and working in a timely manner. Takedown was much better organized. I actually got home before 7:00 which sets new record.

We won't know anything about how anyone else did until December. But scoring aside, RANV once again knocked it out of the park, even from a new venue.

### 2024 RANV FIELD DAY HALL OF FAME

**AA1SU Paul** – CW op; Phone op; VHF op; Equipment; Traffic; Set up; Tear down.

**AB1T Doug** – CW op; Equipment; Tear down.

**K1BIF Bob** – Site admin; Photography, Set up; Tear down.

**K1ZK Zach** – CW op.

**K2AST Kevin** – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

**KB1LOT Jim** – Set up.

**KB3DQZ Jonathan** – GOTA op; Tear down.

**KC1IFK Stew** – Phone op; GOTA op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.

**KC1JGM George** – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

**KC1KUW Ryan** – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

**KC1SFJ Logan** – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

**KC1TBR Johnna** – Tear down.

**KK1L Ron** – Phone op; Set up; Tear down; Logging Network, Transport.

**KQ4MWA Micha** – GOTA op.

**N1CFO Erik** – CW op; Phone op; Set up; Tear down.

**N1YD Jeff** – GOTA op; Safety; Demo; Set up; Tear down.

**N2KLC Jim** – GOTA op; Set up; Tear down.

**N5OH Alex** – GOTA op.

**NV1Y John** – GOTA op; Tear down.

**W1LWH Linn** – CW op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down.

**W1NGO Noah** – GOTA op; Tear down.

**W1SJ Mitch** – Chairman; Phone op; Satellite op; Equipment; Set up; Tear down; Results.

#### Other Participants:

**AC1QY John** – Tuesday Tent Removal.

**W4YFJ Bob** – Friday night FD Bulletin.

## IS OUR COMMUNICATIONS DYSFUNCTIONAL?

Mitch [W1SJ](#)

This is a rather strange question to ask of hams, who are communications experts, but it really should be asked. A couple of disturbing points:

1. Attendance at meetings is poor – typically 10-12 both live and on-line from a club with around 80 members.
2. It was difficult planning Field Day as it was hard to get all the key people in the same place at the same time. It didn't help that I was late to one of these.
3. Everyone wants to rely on [ranv@groups.io](mailto:ranv@groups.io) and this is not effective. I have just learned that only 20 out of 80 RANV members are subscribed to it.
4. Hardly anyone gets on the repeater anymore.

It seems to me that all people want to do is send endless texts. This is poor substitute. The world is far more complicated than a 256 byte text!

None of this is unique to amateur radio. This problem exists everywhere. Do you notice how it seems everything these days is dysfunctional?

The RANV meetings are concerning. We already are down to 8 meetings a year and the attendance at each one is poor. I am of the opinion that perhaps we should give up on these as folks cannot or will not commit to a meeting schedule. It takes a good deal of planning to put together a meeting program only to see a handful of people show up. The meeting topic of, "Let's sit around and talk about what we did on the air last night", doesn't get it done for me.

The use of a chat reflector like [ranv@groups.io](mailto:ranv@groups.io) has its drawbacks. I've just learned that few RANV members are subscribed to this. Some feel there is too much traffic, while some feel we need to use it more. I am working on setting up subgroups where hot topics can be located in their own spaces, saving the main channel for universal announcements or questions.

Activity on the repeater is poor. And that is a sad state of affairs for one of the most active repeaters in New England! Outside of the Bob & Allan (and often with Bob and Mitch) shows, there is hardly anyone else heard locally. We have network access to IRLP, Echolink and the GARA Network across New York, and still there is hardly any activity.

How to bring new people into ham radio is a well worn topic, which doesn't have many good answers. But at the very least we can act like we love what we are doing. Field Day is one such bright spot, but it only involves a paltry 25% of the club. Worse, we were the only Field Day activity in Northwestern Vermont, an area comprising over 1000 licensed amateur operators. Few of those amateur operators were even on the air.

None of this is new news and it has been said before. If we all simply talk about ham radio and do nothing else, we will fade into history. That may happen anyway, but at

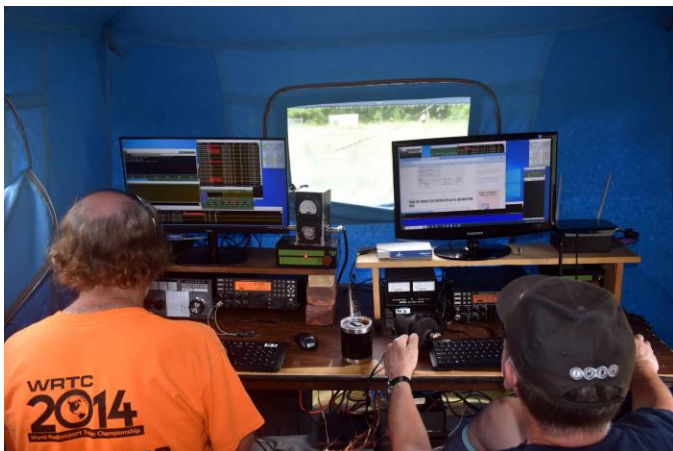
least let's have radio fun while it lasts. This summer we have park activations, a picnic, and a division convention. Plan to participate. Make time to have fun!

**Field Day Video Link**  
**Bob K1BIF**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_J-tjkYTYA&t=14s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_J-tjkYTYA&t=14s)  
<[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_J-tjkYTYA&t=14s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_J-tjkYTYA&t=14s)>

**Field Day Photos**  
**Bob K1BIF**





---

## July RANV Meeting Minutes

Bob **K1BIF**

Attendance: N1JGB, N1YD, KQ4HAN, KC1JGM, W4YFJ, K2AST, KB1LOT, KC1SFJ, K1BIF, AAISU, W1SJ, KC1KUW, KK1L  
On line: W1LWH,

Meeting began at 7:10



The Field day discussion. Looking for youth operators (GOTA). Zoom started late. New site –West St, Essex Junction. We’re in the back, GOTA to the left, Phone straight, and CW right. Thursday, build Yagis, raise wire antennas and screw in anchors for towers. Friday, get trailer & bring it to the site, then set up towers with antennas. Saturday, finish setting up in the morning, set up generators. Water will be brought Friday, food is across RT 15, pick your poison. Field Day starts 2pm Saturday. GOTA will do SSB and FT8. Phone, CW and UHF/VHF logs will be networked. Event ends at 2pm Sunday. Logs are secured first, copy made on USB drive. First, empty the GOTA tent, then take the GOTA tent down. CW tent and Phone tent must be emptied as soon as FD ends, then towers are taken down next. Wire antennas are then taken down.



Stew will bring snacks for July meeting.

Steering wheel JP’s at noon Tuesday June 18th  
Meeting ended 8:40

Bob, k1bif, secretary

---





## NEWS & VIEWS

### INSIDE

- **CHECK OUT YOUR EQUIPMENT**
- **Field Day 2024 Rocks**
- **Field Day Hall of Fame**
- **COMMUNICATIONS DYSFUNCTIONAL?**
- **Field Day Video**
- **Field Day Photos**
- **June Meeting Minutes**

### NEXT MEETING

Holy Family Parrish Hall  
Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

**Meeting Topic**  
**Check Out Your Equipment**

If the main room is in use, we will use the classroom downstairs

### Upcoming, Notices, & Misc

- Steering Wheel: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue Noon; JP's Essex, Vt
- VE Exams every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday;
- Contact AB1WG for information
- Dues due? Pay online at [www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html](http://www.ranv.org/ranvpay.html)

